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AUTHOR Fernandez, Edward W.; And Others
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ABSTRACT

In March 1978 there were 12 million persons of Spanish origin in the United States: about 7.2 million of Mexican origin, 1.8 million of Puerto Rican origin, 700,000 of Cuban origin, 900,000 of Central or South American origin, and about 1.5 million of other Spanish origin. Of these, 85% resided in metropolitan areas. About 42% were under 18 years old, while only about 4% were 65 years old and over. Among those 25 to 29 years old, 57% had a high school education, as compared with only 30% of those 45 to 64 years old. About 21% of the families had incomes below the poverty level in 1977; only 9.7% had incomes of $25,000 or more. About 80% of the men were in the civilian labor force compared with 45% of the women. The median income for the men was $7,797 while the median income of the women was $3,669. Although both men and women of Spanish origin were about equally likely to be currently married in March 1978, the men were more likely than the women to have never been married, and the women were more likely than the men to be either widowed or divorced. This report presents advance data, collected in March 1978 by the Census Bureau, on the demographic, social and economic characteristics of persons of Spanish origin. Characteristics presented include age, sex, marital status, educational attainment, employment status, occupation, and income. Data on residence, income, and poverty status are shown for families of Spanish origin. (NQ)

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CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

Population Characteristics

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Bureau of the Census

Series P-20, No. 328
Issued August 1978

- ED158953

Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1978

(Advance Report)

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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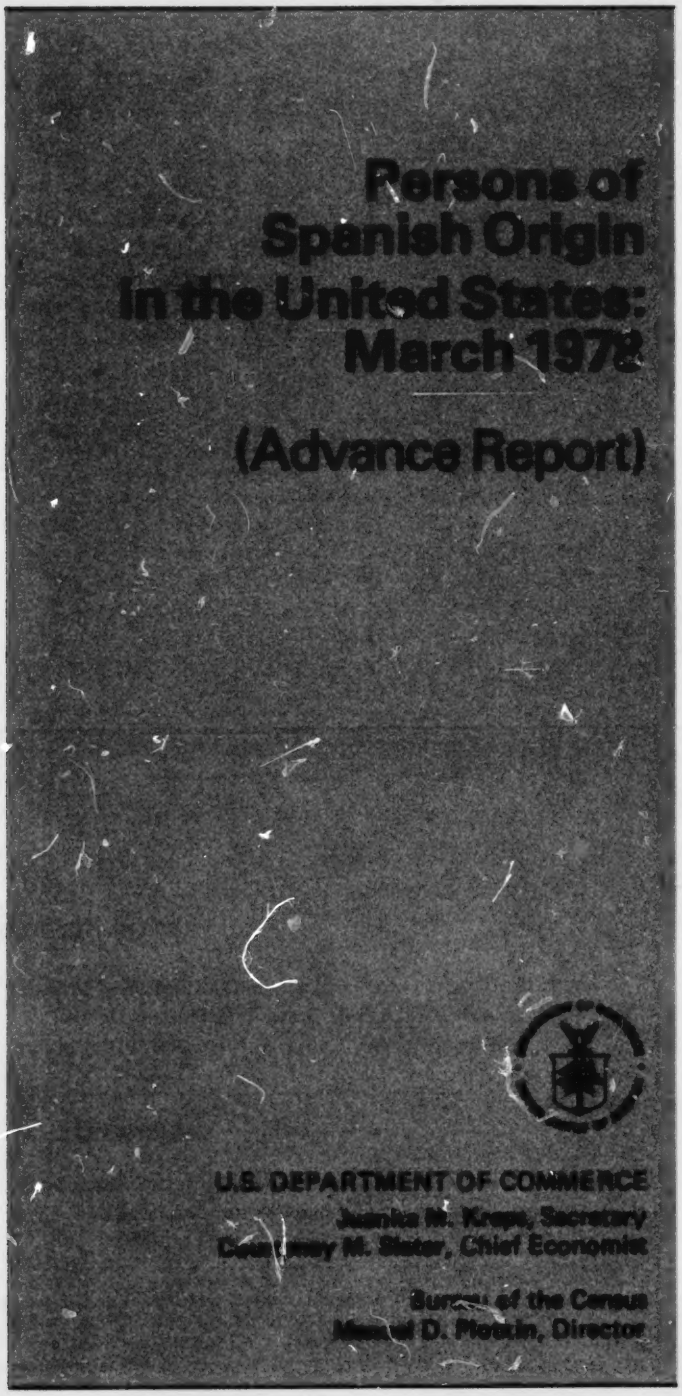
Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1978
(Advance Report)
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Robert L. Hagan, Deputy Director
Daniel B. Levine, Associate Director for
Demographic Fields

POPULATION DIVISION
Meyer Zitter, Chief

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This report was prepared by **Edward W. Fernandez**, Chief, Spanish Statistics Staff with the assistance of **Arthur Cresce** and **Carmen DeNavas**. General direction was provided by **Nampeo McKenney**, Chief, Ethnic and Racial Statistics Staffs, Population Division.

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Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1978

This report presents advance data on the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of persons of Spanish origin in the United States. This statistical information on the Spanish origin population was collected in March 1978 by the Bureau of the Census as a supplement to its monthly Current Population Survey (CPS). Characteristics presented include age, sex, marital status, educational attainment, employment status, occupation, and income. Data on residence, income, and poverty status are shown for families of Spanish origin.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In March 1978, there were 12 million persons in the United States who reported that they were of Spanish origin. About 7.2 million were of Mexican origin, 1.8 million of Puerto Rican origin, 700,000 of Cuban origin, 900,000 of Central or South American origin, and about 1.5 million of other Spanish origin (figure 1, table 1).

- The Spanish origin population included a substantially larger proportion of young persons than did the population not of Spanish origin; about 42 percent of all persons of Spanish origin were under 18 years old, compared with only 29 percent of persons not of Spanish origin. Furthermore, only about 4 percent of persons of Spanish origin were 65 years old and over, as compared with 11 percent of persons not of Spanish origin (table 2).

- Although both men and women of Spanish origin were about equally likely to be currently married in March 1978, the men were more likely than the women to have never been married, and the women were more likely than the men to be either widowed or divorced (table 3).

- Among the younger adults of Spanish origin, those 25 to 29 years old, 57 percent had completed at least a high school education, as compared with only 30 percent of Spanish origin adults 45 to 64 years old (figure 2, table 5).

- The proportion of persons of Spanish origin 16 years old and over in the labor force varied by sex. About 80 percent of Spanish origin men were in the civilian labor force compared with only 45 percent of Spanish origin women (figure 3, table 7).

- A relatively small proportion of employed men of Spanish origin were working in farm occupations (5 percent). However, about 58 percent of employed Spanish men were blue-collar workers; another 24 percent were white-collar workers; and 13 percent were service workers. Of all employed women of Spanish origin, about one-half were white-collar workers, one-fourth blue-collar workers, and one-fifth service workers (table 6).

- Spanish origin men with income had lower median incomes in 1977 than men who were not of Spanish origin ($7,797 and $10,261, respectively). The median income of Spanish origin women with income in 1977 ($3,669) was substantially lower than that for Spanish origin men ($7,797), and somewhat lower than the median income of women not of Spanish origin ($3,956) (table 8).

- Most families of Spanish origin live in metropolitan areas. In March 1978, 85 percent of all Spanish origin families resided in metropolitan areas, as compared with 65 percent of the families not of Spanish origin (table 4).

- A smaller proportion of Spanish origin families had high incomes in 1977 than families not of Spanish origin. Only 9.7 percent of Spanish origin families had incomes of $25,000 or more compared with 23 percent of families not of Spanish origin (table 9).

- About 21 percent of Spanish origin families had incomes below the poverty level in 1977, as compared with about 9 percent of families not of Spanish origin (table 10).

Since the estimates in this report are based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the survey differs from a complete census figure by less than the standard error (a measure of the sampling variability that occurs because a sample rather than the whole of the population was surveyed). If a complete census instead of a sample survey had been taken in March 1978, the chances are about 68 out of 100 (one standard error) that the census would show the total number of persons of Spanish origin to be within the range of 11.7 to 12.4 million persons, and the chances are about 95 out of 100 (twice the standard error) that the census total would be between 11.4 and 12.7 million persons.

Information in this report on persons of Spanish origin was obtained from responses to the following question:

What is your origin or descent?

01 German	10 Mexican-American
02 Italian	11 Chicano
03 Irish	12 Mexican
04 French	13 Mexicano
05 Polish	14 Puerto Rican
06 Russian	15 Cuban
07 English	16 Central or South American
08 Scottish	17 Other Spanish
09 Welsh	20 Negro
	21 Black

OR

30 Another group not listed

FORM CPS-597 (1-3-74)

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Persons of Spanish origin were persons who reported themselves as Mexican-American, Chicano, Mexican, Mexicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish origin. Persons who reported themselves specifically as Mexican-American, Chicano, Mexican, or Mexicano were consolidated into the one category—Mexican.

Tables in this report show data for some or all of the subcategories of persons of Spanish origin—Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin. A more inclusive report on the characteristics of these persons is forthcoming.

Rounding. The numbers in this report are in thousands and were rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals; hence, the sum of the parts may not equal the total shown. Also, because of rounding, the figures may differ slightly from table to table, and individual percentages may not always add to 100 percent.

Symbols.—A dash (—) represents zero or rounds to zero. The symbol "B" means that the base for the derived figure is less than 75,000.

Figure 1.
Number of Persons of Spanish Origin by Type of Spanish Origin

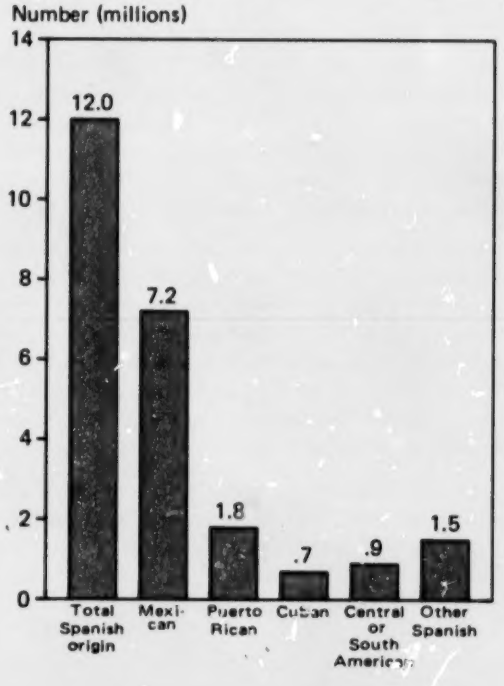


Figure 2.
Percent of Persons of Spanish Origin 25 Years Old and Over by Years of School Completed and Age

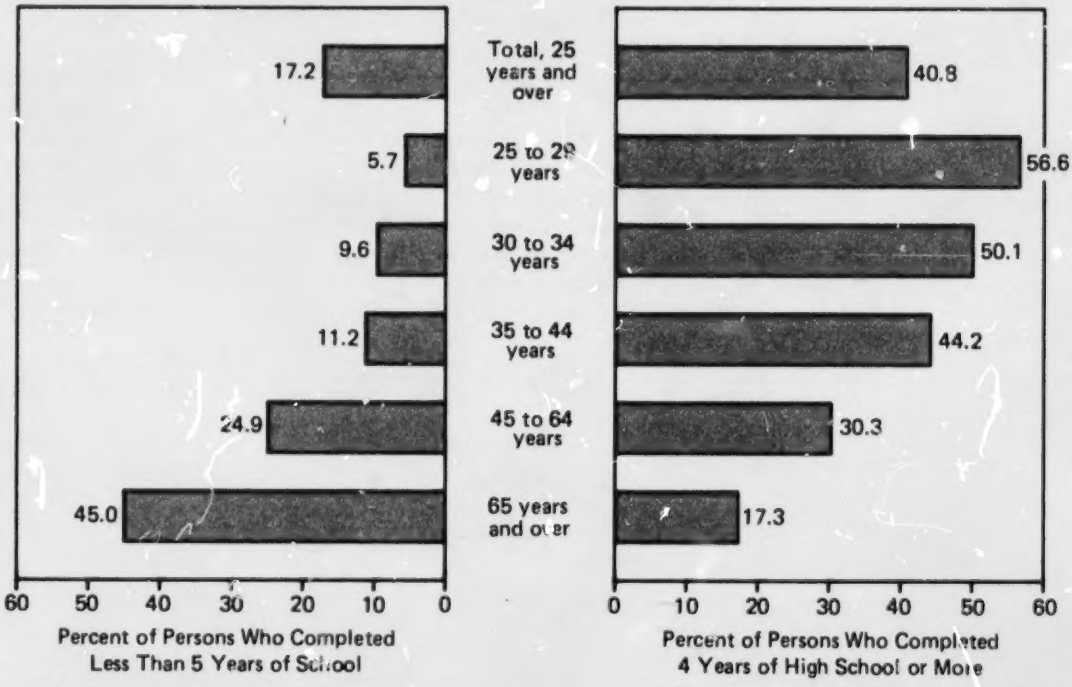
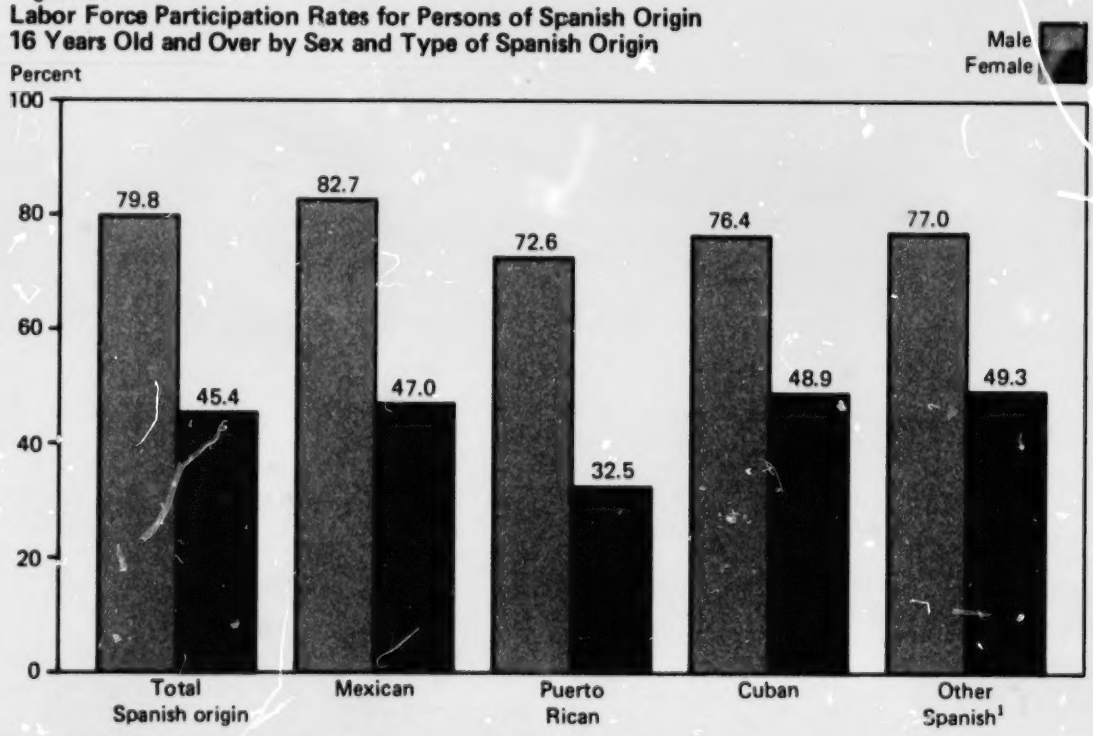


Figure 3.
Labor Force Participation Rates for Persons of Spanish Origin 16 Years Old and Over by Sex and Type of Spanish Origin



[1] Includes Central or South American origin and other Spanish origin.

NOTE

In the past the Census Bureau has designated a head of household to serve as the central reference person for the collection and tabulation of data for individual members of the household (or family). However, recent social changes have resulted in a trend toward recognition of more equal status for all members of the household (or family), making the term "head" less relevant in the analysis of household and family data. As a result, the Bureau is currently developing new techniques of enumeration and data presentation which will eliminate the concept of "head." While much of the data in this report are based on the concept of "head," methodology for future Census Bureau reports will reflect a gradual movement away from this traditional practice.

Table 1. POPULATION OF SPANISH ORIGIN BY SEX AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN

(For the United States, March 1978. Numbers in thousands)

Type of Spanish origin	Both sexes		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	12,046	100.0	5,850	100.0	6,196	100.0
Mexican	7,151	59.4	3,528	60.3	3,623	58.5
Puerto Rican	1,823	15.1	825	14.1	997	16.1
Cuban	689	5.7	342	5.8	347	5.6
Central or South American	863	7.2	396	6.8	467	7.5
Other Spanish	1,519	12.6	758	13.0	761	12.3

Table 2. TOTAL AND SPANISH ORIGIN POPULATION BY AGE AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN

(For the United States, March 1978)

Age	Total population	Spanish origin						Not of Spanish origin[1]
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central or South American	Other Spanish	
All ages....(thousands)..	214,159	12,046	7,151	1,823	689	863	1,519	202,113
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years.....	7.2	12.6	13.9	11.3	5.7	9.4	13.4	6.8
5 to 9 years.....	7.9	11.5	11.8	13.6	6.8	9.2	10.6	7.7
10 to 17 years.....	14.5	17.7	17.3	21.1	13.4	14.8	18.9	14.4
18 to 20 years.....	5.8	6.2	6.6	5.2	5.2	5.8	6.1	5.8
21 to 24 years.....	7.1	7.8	8.4	6.2	5.4	6.7	8.1	7.1
25 to 34 years.....	15.4	15.7	16.1	16.4	11.4	21.2	12.4	15.5
35 to 44 years.....	11.1	11.0	10.2	11.5	14.4	16.6	10.0	11.1
45 to 54 years.....	10.8	8.4	7.8	8.2	15.3	8.1	8.6	10.9
55 to 64 years.....	9.6	4.8	4.2	4.4	9.2	5.1	5.8	9.9
65 years and over.....	10.5	4.3	3.7	2.3	13.3	3.1	6.1	10.9
18 years and over.....	70.4	58.3	57.0	54.0	74.1	66.7	57.1	71.1
21 years and over.....	64.6	52.1	50.4	48.8	68.9	60.8	51.0	65.3
Median age.....(years)..	29.5	22.1	21.3	20.3	36.5	26.8	21.5	30.0

[1] Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.

Table 3. MARITAL STATUS OF PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN AND SEX

(For the United States, March 1978)

Marital status	Total, Spanish origin		Mexican origin		Puerto Rican origin		Cuban origin		Other Spanish origin[1]	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total persons, 14 years old and over..(thous.)..	3,848	4,212	2,293	2,398	504	650	274	289	778	875
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single.....	34.9	27.8	33.1	28.5	38.7	27.2	30.2	19.3	39.3	29.1
Married.....	60.4	59.5	62.6	60.7	55.3	56.4	64.4	62.2	55.5	57.3
Widowed.....	1.3	6.2	1.4	5.7	1.6	5.8	1.8	8.7	0.8	7.0
Divorced.....	3.4	6.6	2.9	5.1	4.5	10.6	3.5	9.8	4.4	6.6

[1] Includes Central or South American origin and other Spanish origin.

Table 4. METROPOLITAN-NONMETROPOLITAN RESIDENCE OF ALL FAMILIES AND SPANISH ORIGIN FAMILIES BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN

(For the United States, March 1978. Numbers in thousands)

Area	Total families	Spanish origin families					Families not of Spanish origin[2]
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Spanish origin[1]	
United States.....	57,215	2,764	1,623	437	186	518	54,451
Metropolitan areas.....	37,841	2,359	1,315	417	181	447	35,482
In central cities.....	15,360	1,412	752	345	69	246	13,948
Outside central cities.....	22,481	948	563	71	112	202	21,533
Nonmetropolitan areas.....	19,374	405	308	21	5	71	18,969
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION							
United States.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Metropolitan areas.....	66.1	85.4	81.0	95.2	97.3	86.3	65.2
In central cities.....	26.8	51.1	46.3	79.0	37.1	47.5	25.6
Outside central cities.....	39.3	34.3	34.7	16.2	60.2	39.0	39.5
Nonmetropolitan areas.....	33.9	14.6	19.0	4.8	2.7	13.7	34.8

[1] Includes families of Central or South American origin and other Spanish origin.
[2] Includes families with head who did not know or did not report on origin.

Table 5. PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AND SPANISH ORIGIN POPULATION 25 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED, TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, AND AGE

(For the United States, March 1978. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Years of school completed and age	Total population	Spanish origin					Not of Spanish origin[2]
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Spanish origin[1]	
PERCENT OF PERSONS WHO COMPLETED LESS THAN 5 YEARS OF SCHOOL							
Total, 25 years and over..	3.6	17.2	23.1	15.0	9.3	5.9	3.0
25 to 29 years.....	0.9	5.7	7.6	4.3	(B)	1.0	0.6
30 to 34 years.....	1.1	9.6	12.6	8.2	(B)	3.5	0.6
35 to 44 years.....	1.7	11.2	15.9	12.4	2.2	1.7	1.1
45 to 64 years.....	3.6	24.9	34.3	23.0	10.2	9.3	2.7
65 years and over.....	9.5	45.0	65.4	(B)	20.5	19.2	8.7
PERCENT OF PERSONS WHO COMPLETED 4 YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL OR MORE							
Total, 25 years and over..	65.9	40.8	34.3	36.0	49.1	58.5	67.1
25 to 29 years.....	85.3	56.6	51.3	52.1	(B)	74.5	87.1
30 to 34 years.....	82.6	50.1	44.1	43.7	(B)	67.8	84.4
35 to 44 years.....	75.1	44.2	37.2	35.2	57.8	62.7	76.9
45 to 64 years.....	61.5	30.3	21.4	26.0	40.9	51.1	62.7
65 years and over.....	38.1	17.3	7.1	(B)	34.9	28.3	38.6
PERCENT OF PERSONS WHO COMPLETED 4 YEARS OF COLLEGE OR MORE							
Total, 25 years and over..	15.7	7.1	4.3	4.2	13.9	13.8	16.1

[1] Includes Central or South American origin and other Spanish origin.
[2] Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.

Table 6. BROAD OCCUPATION GROUP OF TOTAL EMPLOYED PERSONS AND EMPLOYED PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN 16 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY SEX AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN

(For the United States, March 1978)

Sex and broad occupation group	Total population	Spanish origin					Not of Spanish origin[2]
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Spanish origin[1]	
MALE							
Total, employed persons.(thousands)..	53,865	2,597	1,619	293	180	504	51,269
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White-collar workers	42.0	24.1	18.5	26.2	39.7	35.1	42.9
Blue-collar workers	45.3	57.8	63.1	52.3	45.3	48.6	44.7
Service workers	8.9	13.3	11.5	19.8	14.4	15.1	8.7
Farm workers	3.8	4.8	6.9	1.7	0.5	1.4	3.7
FEMALE							
Total, employed persons.(thousands)..	38,099	1,613	938	173	130	372	36,486
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White-collar workers	63.9	48.0	44.8	56.3	52.4	51.1	64.6
Blue-collar workers	14.5	28.2	29.1	30.9	30.4	24.2	13.9
Service workers	20.5	22.6	24.5	11.9	16.5	24.7	20.4
Farm workers	1.1	1.1	1.6	0.9	0.7	0.3	1.1

[1] Includes Central or South American origin and other Spanish origin.
[2] Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.

Table 7. EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP OF THE SPANISH ORIGIN POPULATION 16 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY SEX AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN

(For the United States, March 1978. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Employment status and occupation	Male					Female				
	Total Spanish origin	Mexican origin	Puerto Rican origin	Cuban origin	Other Spanish origin[1]	Total Spanish origin	Mexican origin	Puerto Rican origin	Cuban origin	Other Spanish origin[1]
Persons, 16 years old and over.....(thousands)..	3,574	2,142	456	259	717	3,970	2,251	608	277	833
In civilian labor force...(thousands)..	2,852	1,771	331	198	552	1,801	1,057	197	136	411
Percent of persons 16 years old and over	79.8	82.7	72.6	76.4	77.0	45.4	47.0	32.5	48.9	49.3
Percent unemployed	9.0	8.6	11.5	8.6	8.7	10.4	11.4	12.2	4.4	9.5
Employed.....(thousands)..	2,597	1,619	293	180	504	1,613	938	173	130	372
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Professional, technical, and kindred workers	8.0	5.3	6.8	17.0	13.9	8.9	7.6	9.9	12.8	10.2
Managers and administrators, except farm	7.2	6.1	4.5	13.8	9.9	4.0	3.5	5.0	5.5	4.0
Sales workers	2.9	2.2	4.3	3.4	4.0	5.8	5.6	6.9	7.0	5.4
Clerical and kindred workers	6.0	4.9	10.6	5.6	7.1	29.4	28.1	34.4	27.1	30.6
Craft and kindred workers	20.6	22.6	15.0	16.4	19.0	1.8	1.9	2.0	3.3	1.1
Operatives, including transport	25.7	27.1	27.9	20.3	22.0	25.2	25.7	27.3	27.1	22.6
Laborers, excluding farm	11.5	13.4	9.4	8.6	7.3	1.2	1.5	1.5	-	0.5
Farmers and farm managers	0.2	0.2	-	0.5	0.2	-	0.1	-	-	-
Farm laborers and supervisors	4.6	6.7	1.7	-	1.0	1.1	1.6	0.9	0.7	0.3
Service workers, except private household	13.3	11.4	19.8	14.4	15.1	17.9	19.0	10.6	15.3	19.4
Private household workers	0.1	-	-	-	0.2	4.7	5.5	1.3	1.2	5.4

[1] Includes Central or South American origin and other Spanish origin.

Table 8. INCOME IN 1977 OF PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER WITH INCOME BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN AND SEX

(For the United States, March 1978)

Sex and origin	Persons with income		
	Median income	Percent with income below $5,000	Percent with income of $25,000 or more
TOTAL POPULATION			
Both sexes	$6,429	41.8	4.9
Male	10,123	27.1	8.6
Female	3,941	58.5	0.6
SPANISH ORIGIN			
Both Sexes			
Total, Spanish origin	$5,564	45.7	1.6
Mexican	5,536	46.2	1.2
Puerto Rican	5,445	46.4	1.0
Cuban	5,424	46.5	2.4
Other Spanish origin[1]	5,784	44.1	2.8
Male			
Total, Spanish origin	$7,797	31.0	2.7
Mexican	7,708	31.1	1.9
Puerto Rican	8,051	29.4	2.0
Cuban	7,845	31.9	3.9
Other Spanish origin[1]	7,875	31.8	5.2
Female			
Total, Spanish origin	$3,669	63.5	0.2
Mexican	3,351	66.0	0.1
Puerto Rican	4,179	62.2	0.1
Cuban	3,414	62.8	0.7
Other Spanish origin[1]	4,158	58.0	0.3
NOT OF SPANISH ORIGIN[2]			
Both sexes	$6,484	41.7	5.0
Male	10,261	27.0	8.9
Female	3,956	58.1	0.6

[1] Includes Central or South American origin and other Spanish origin.
[2] Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.

Table 9. INCOME IN 1977 OF ALL FAMILIES AND SPANISH ORIGIN FAMILIES BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN

(For the United States, March 1978)

Family income	Total families	Spanish origin families					Families not of Spanish origin[2]
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Spanish origin[1]	
Total families.....(thousands)..	57,215	2,764	1,623	437	186	518	54,451
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than $4,000.....	6.3	10.4	9.1	16.1	8.9	10.0	6.1
$4,000 to $6,999.....	10.3	16.4	14.4	27.6	12.3	14.7	10.0
$7,000 to $9,999.....	10.9	15.6	16.2	15.7	15.4	13.7	10.7
$10,000 to $14,999.....	18.4	22.8	25.3	16.2	17.0	22.8	18.2
$15,000 to $19,999.....	17.7	15.4	15.9	12.8	17.2	15.8	17.8
$20,000 to $24,999.....	13.9	9.6	10.1	5.3	13.4	10.2	14.1
$25,000 or more.....	22.4	11.7	8.9	6.3	15.9	12.5	23.0
Median income.....	$16,009	$11,421	$11,742	$7,972	$14,182	$12,500	$16,284

[1] Includes Central or South American origin and other Spanish origin.
[2] Includes families with head who did not know or did not report on origin.

Table 10. POVERTY STATUS IN 1977 OF ALL FAMILIES AND SPANISH ORIGIN FAMILIES BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN

(For the United States, March 1978. Numbers in thousands)

Origin	Total	Below the poverty level	
		Number	Percent
Total families.....	57,215	5,311	9.3
Spanish origin families.....	2,764	591	21.4
Mexican.....	1,623	306	18.9
Puerto Rican.....	437	170	38.9
Cuban.....	186	28	15.1
Central or South American.....	206	34	16.5
Other Spanish.....	312	52	16.7
Families not of Spanish origin[1].....	54,451	4,720	8.7

[1] Includes families with head who did not know or did not report on origin.

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